

D-8000

**SECRET**

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

File No. ....

Section 1, Special Branch  
REPORT

8000  
10000-37.  
Date December 10, 1937.

Subject Hilaire du Berrier, American aviator: further report.

Made by D.S. Larby

Forwarded by

C. Crawford, D.I.

"Count" Hilaire du Berrier, American aviator, who recently returned to Shanghai from Hankow by way of Hong Kong has now removed from the Metropole Hotel to the Cathay Mansions, Route Cardinal Mercier, where he now occupies Room No.305.

While in Hankow, du Berrier sustained a knee injury as a result of an aeroplane crash and thus decided to forsake flying for the time being.

Since his return to Shanghai, du Berrier has expressed considerable resentment at the treatment -- in a monetary sense -- meted out to him by the Central Government Air Force.

However he still appears to be in possession of ample funds as may be exemplified by the fact that he recently gave a large dinner party at the French Club; among the guests were such well known persons as Vice Admiral Le Bigot and Mr. M. Speelman, director of the International Savings Society. Nevertheless, it is learned from a reliable source that du Berrier has cabled to the Paris office of Barclay's Bank (Dominion, Colonial and Overseas) Ltd., requesting the remittance of further funds. It is of interest to observe that his mother who died in Paris about five years ago left her son a considerable sum of money which now forms the basis of his account with the aforementioned bank.

If he can be taken at his word, du Berrier would appear to be determined never again to oppose the Nationalist forces at present taking part in the Spanish civil war.



SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

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Made by..... Forwarded by.....

Moreover, he has expressed in no uncertain terms that, as a result of his own experiences in Spain when fighting for the "Loyalists", he considered it a great pity that France and Great Britain had not assisted General Franco in his campaign against the "Leftist" Government. By this strategem, he argues, Germany and Italy would have had no excuse to take any part in the embroilment while the reasons for the present tension in the Mediterranean area would not have then arisen.

At the present time, du Berrier appears to be very uncertain of his future activities which will doubtless depend on the outcome of the present Sino-Japanese hostilities and possible developments in the situation in Europe.

*K. J. Hanby*  
b.s.

D.C. (Special Branch).  
  
*D.C.*  
*18/2*

8000  
d - 8 - 27



August

3

37.

Sir,

Further to my letter dated July 14, 1937, I have the honour to inform you that Hilaire du BERRIER, American aviator, returned to Shanghai from Hongkong on the s.s. "Niel Maersk" on July 31, 1937, and immediately proceeded to Nanking in quest of employment in the Chinese Air Force.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Sd) K. M. Bourne.

Deputy Commissioner of Police  
in Charge.

C. Marchiori, Esq.,  
Vice Consul,  
Italian Consulate-General,  
Shanghai.

file  
DBR 318.

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FM. 2  
G. 45M-1-36

File No. ....

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

Special Branch - CS6. Station, 8-87

REPORT

Date August 2, 1937.

Subject..... Hilaire du BERRIER, American aviator, returns to China.

Made by..... and..... Forwarded by..... D.S. Pitts.

Further to a report dated July 13, 1937 on the subject of Hilaire du BERRIER, American aviator, I have to state that this individual returned to Shanghai from Hongkong on the s.s. "Niel Maersk" on July 31, 1937 and immediately proceeded to Nanking in quest of employment in the Chinese Air Force.

D. Pitts-

D. S.

ch.

D.C. (Special Branch).

DBR  
38

## Flying Soldier Of Fortune On Way To Spain

### M. da Berrier Fails To Sell Services In Far East

Back to the wars again after an unsuccessful effort to sell his services to any of the Far Eastern powers, M. Hilaire du Berrier, flying soldier of fortune, sailed from Shanghai yesterday en route to war-torn Spain.

M. du Berrier, who for obvious reasons dodged publicity concerning movements, remained in Shanghai incognito for two days after an exclusive article concerning him appeared in THE CHINA PRESS last Sunday. Now the dapper young military pilot is bound for a certain European country where, according to telegraphic instructions, he is to secretly take a new war plane and deliver it to Spain.

For that he receives a bonus of £250 and on arrival in Spain will resume his job with the pursuit squadron of the Government's foreign flying force—for which he received £200 per month. Du Berrier was somewhat disappointed at his lack of success in finding a war pilot's job in the Far East and he blames it on the fact that aviation in the Orient is already too highly developed, so that there is no place for him. However, he believes that the trouble in Spain will last for at least another year, so he is sure of employment there.

#### Likes Excitement

Asked about the prospects of getting shot, du Berrier laughed.

"Perhaps," he said, "but anyway it's better than working. I like the excitement of it, and the comradeship of the other pilots."

The flier, who is an American of French descent, got his first taste of war in the clouds in the Italo-Ethiopian conflict. In that fray he served Halle Seassie until the rout from Addis Ababa. At the outbreak

of the Spanish revolution he was among the handful of Americans, French, British and Russians who joined up with the Government forces on a cash basis. Asked which war he preferred, du Berrier said the African one, except for the fact that he was unable to collect his pay after it was over.

"All Spain has gone mad," he said, "and one is in almost as much danger from one's own allies as from the enemy. There are many opposing factions, such as the communists, anarchists and syndicalists, on the Government side and each has its own way of dealing with anyone who arouses its suspicions."



#### Spaniards Fighting Too

Judging by his description, almost everyone is fighting in Spain, including the Spaniards. There is little communication between different factions and the foreign fliers usually have to wait for the newspapers from France to find out what was going on.

"The airplanes we have to fly are pretty bad," he said. "Mine was a Nieuport of World War days which would only go about 80 miles an hour and turn in one direction. The Russian fliers have wonderful new machines, however, and are excellent pilots. They keep entirely to themselves, fighting their own war.

"If you lose your plane or fail to carry out orders you are shot. A friend of mine was executed because he refused to take up an old bomber which would not hold enough gasoline for him to bomb the town he had been ordered to."

Du Berrier left Spain exactly six months ago yesterday and had spent six weeks on fighting patrol in the northern part of the country. It's nearly impossible for a foreign pilot to get out of the country once he joins up, he said. He himself managed it by going on a vain errand into northern Europe in an effort to get more arms for his side. He doesn't expect to encounter any difficulty getting back in, and once there is hoping for the best.

*ed. B.R. 14/7*

8000  
14-7-37

July 14 37.

Sir,

I have the honour to forward herewith  
for your information a copy of a report regarding  
one Hilaire du BERRIER.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Sd) K. M. Bouri

Deputy Commissioner of Police  
in Charge.

C. Marchiori, Esq.,

Vice Consul,

Italian Consulate-General,

Shanghai.

Sp Re  
Article on China  
Press today 10/7

MR MB

14/7

**SECRET**  
SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

File No. ....

Special Branch - CS6. Station,

**REPORT**

Date July 13, 1937.

Subject Hilaire du BERRIER, American.

Made by and Forwarded by D. S. Pitts.

Hilaire du BERRIER, American, aged 30 years, in possession of American passport No. 468 issued at Nice, France on September 3, 1935, arrived in Shanghai from Marseilles on May 17, 1937 by the Messageries Maritimes' m.v. "Aramis."

An aviator by calling, du BERRIER is believed to have stayed with friends in Shanghai for no trace of him can be found in hotels, boarding houses or places of a similar description in either the International Settlement or French Concession.

According to enquiries made from various sources, it has been ascertained that du BERRIER took part in the Italo-Abyssinian conflict, having fought for the Negus as a pilot of reconnaissance and bombing 'planes. With the incidence of hostilities in Spain between the warring factions of Loyalists and Nationalists, du BERRIER joined up on the side of the Government forces and took part in many air fights and skirmishes against Fascist machines. He has been heard to remark that he was well remunerated for his aeronautical exploits in both Abyssinia and Spain.

After arrival in Shanghai du BERRIER made his way to Nanking and later to Kuling, in an effort to obtain a position as an instructor <sup>and</sup> ~~an~~ adviser in the Chinese Air Force, but was not successful in his quest.

Nothing can be learned locally of his background save that he is conversant with the Gaelic tongue, but he is regarded by a number of people who came in contact with him here, as a very reserved type of person of charming

## SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

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Made by. ....

Forwarded by. ....

disposition with the breeding of a gentleman.

He arrived here in possession of a Letter of Credit from Barclay's Bank, Paris, and during his stay in Shanghai appeared to have sufficient cash at his disposal to meet his everyday needs.

He left Shanghai on July 13, 1937 on the s.s. "Haruna Maru" as a 2nd. class passenger, having booked through to London. His forwarding address is given as c/o Barclay's Bank, Paris, but it is believed that he will eventually make his way again to Spain where he intends to fight against the fascist troops of General Franco.

It is of interest to note that when booking his passage to Europe on the s.s. "Haruna Maru," du BERRIER remarked "Well! I shall have to watch out when the steamer calls at Naples, for if the Italians know I'm on board, they will come and drag me off and put me up against a wall...."

He is not known to any members of the staff of the American Consulate-General and enquiries made in local aviation circles have revealed no information regarding his activities. No particulars are available as to his political beliefs, but it is believed that his object in coming to China was solely to obtain a post with the Chinese Government Air Force. It would seem that du BERRIER is a mercenary <sup>an</sup> adventurer, who is prepared to sell his qualities as an aviator to the highest bidder.

D. S. Pitts.

D. S.

D.C. (Special Branch). Information called for by  
Mr. Marchiori, Italian Vice-Counsel.

DBR - 1379

# SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE

**CROSS-REFERENCE SLIP**

Special Branch Registry. OFFICE.

FILE NO. D. 8000(c).

**SUBJECT:**

Hilaire du BERRIER

and

Fred Vernon WAGNER.

INSTRUCTIONS SEE OVER

**CONFIDENTIAL**

Special Branch D. 8000  
February 9, 1938

Fred Vernon WAGNER and Hilaire du BERRIER leave Shanghai  
together for Hongkong  
D.S. Pitts.

*\* See D 8107*  
I have to report that Fred Vernon WAGNER and Hilaire du BERRIER, who respectively form the subjects of Files D. 8107 and D. 8100, ~~respectively~~, left Shanghai together for Hongkong on February 2 in the s.s. "Conte Rosso." Both were travelling on the same ticket (first-class) and in the same cabin.

In view of the fact that WAGNER was recently suspected of working on behalf of the Japanese Intelligence Service, coupled with BERRIER's aviation activities, it is respectfully suggested that the Hongkong Police be informed of the contents of the attached files in regard to these two persons, so that enquiries can be made in the Colony as to whether these individuals are engaged in suspicious activities there.

*D.S. Pitts*

D. S.

D.C. (Special Branch).

FILE  
*380/12*

*copy to  
D. S. H.*

*380/12*

P. A. to D. C. (Sp. Br.)

**SECRET**

Special Branch,

February 10, 1938

10000

11 2 38

Memorandum on Hilaire du BERRIER, American.

Hilaire du BERRIER alias Count du BERRIER, American of French extraction, aged 30 or 31 years of age, in possession of American passport No. 468 issued at Nice, France on September 3, 1935, arrived in Shanghai from Marseilles on May 17, 1937 by the Messageries Maritimes' m.v. "Aramis." According to enquiries made it has been ascertained that du BERRIER took part in the Italo-Abyssinian conflict, having fought for the Negus as a pilot of reconnaissance and bombing machines. With the incidence of hostilities in Spain between the warring factions of Loyalists and Nationalists, du BERRIER joined up on the side of the Government forces and took part in many air fights and skirmishes against fascist planes. He has been heard to remark that he was well remunerated for his aeronautical exploits in both Ethiopia and in Spain. After arrival in Shanghai the subject made his way to Nanking and Kuling in an effort to secure a post as an instructor or adviser to the Chinese Air Force. He was unsuccessful in his quest however.

He left Shanghai on July 13, 1937 on the s.s. "Haruna Maru" for London, but returned here on July 31 from Hongkong on the s.s. "Niel Maersk" and again proceeded to Nanking in search of employment in the Chinese Air Force. He returned to Shanghai from Hankow via Hongkong ~~in the latter part of~~ <sup>on 11 November</sup> 1937 after sustaining a knee injury as the result of a crash. After his return he was heard to express his resentment ~~vis-a-vis~~ viv-a-vis the financial treatment meted out to him by



FILE

DBR

41.

F. A. to D. C. (Sp. Br.)

the Central Government Air Force.

He appears to be financially well-off having, it is said, a large account in the Paris branch of the Barclay's Bank (Dominion, Colonial and Overseas) Ltd.

He left for Hongkong on February 2, 1938 in the s.s. "Conte Rosso" travelling together with one Fred Verhon WAGNER, a suspicious character reported to be connected with the Japanese Intelligence Service.

8000  
Special Branch - 16 S. 1. 2. 38

February 16, 1938.

Fred Vernon WAGNER and Hilaire du BERRIER return to Shanghai  
from Hongkong.

D.S. Pitts.

COPY

With reference to a report dated February 9, 1938  
I have to state that Fred Vernon WAGNER and Hilaire du  
BERRIER returned together to Shanghai from Hongkong on  
February 13, 1938 in the s.s. "Gneisenau."

It has been established that du BERRIER is now  
connected with Wagner's concern - the American Asiatic  
Trading Company, 250 Sassoon House - details of which  
appear in File D. 8107.

General enquiries will be continually made regarding  
these two individuals and should anything be learned of  
interest from a Police point of view, a further report  
will be immediately submitted.

D.S. Pitts.

D. S.

D.C. (Special Branch).

C 16  
2/3.

**SECRET**

Section 1, Special Branch

8000  
113 38

March 11, 1938.

F. V. WAGNER and H. du BERRIER.

D.S. Pitts

**COPY**

According to information received it is learned that the object of the recent trip made to Hongkong by F. V. Wagner and H. du Berrier was one connected with an attempt to secure certain plans of Chinese aerodromes, airbases and details of the location of Chinese machines. The endeavour is said to have been successful.

This attempt was made, it is believed, on behalf of the Japanese, for whom Wagner is still working as an agent. In this connection, it is said that du Berrier, who was formerly flying for the Chinese Air Force, is now acting as an agent for the Japanese Intelligence Service, working in concert with Wagner.

Wagner is at present residing at 223 Grosvenor Gardens, Rue Cardinal Mercier, whilst du Berrier is staying at the Cathay Mansions.

On page 3 of a report dated September 21, 1937 (reference mention was made of a Mrs. Marie Atkinson, living and working with Wagner...." This lady, born in Salzburg (Austria) is 25 years of age and is British by nationality. Reports have been received to the effect that until the recent closure of Chez Albrand, Bubbling Well Road, she was a frequent visitor there and was often seen in the company of French military officers. Further enquiries are being made regarding this woman, the results of which will form the subject matter of a separate report.

**FILE**

Mar. 11/3

P. A. to D. S. (Sp. Br.)

D.S. (Special Branch)

*Ja Pitts*

12-8

**SECRET**

Special Branch - S.1.

8000

20-4-38

April 20, 38.

F.V. WAGNER and Hilaire du BERRIER leave Shanghai for Hongkong.

F.V. WAGNER and Hilaire du BERRIER, both Americans, working on behalf of the Japanese Intelligence Section, left Shanghai to-day, April 20, 1938 for Hongkong in the s.s. "Empress of Canada." They are said to be en route to Hankow.

They have given two Hongkong forwarding addresses:

- (1) c/o Messrs. Kunst & Albers, Hongkong.
- (2) c/o National City Bank of New York, Hongkong.

FILE  
JBR  
20/4.

P. A. to D. C. (S. 1.)

**SECRET**BRITISH GENERAL STAFF  
SHANGHAI

25th July 1940.

Dear Mr. Yorke

The following have come to me for enrolment in the British Forces.

I would be very grateful if you would give me a line on their activities, in order that I may decide as to whether they are suitable persons to be admitted.

<u>Nationality.</u>	<u>Occupation.</u>
Robert Paul LITHER.	American.
Hilaire du BERRIERE.	American.
Raymond Louis HAMILTON.	American.

Yours sincerely,  
R. W. Yorke  
Cpt

R. W. Yorke, Esq.,  
S.M. Police Headquarters,  
Shanghai.

Vis. for Logan.

26/7/40

D. S. J. Logan  
E. 27/7

KMC  
F.M. 2  
G. 40M-1-42

**SECRET**

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE

S. S. REGISTRY

File No. S. B. D. 80001

S. 1, Special ~~Depar~~ Station 711 40

**REPORT**

Date. July 26, 1940.

Subject. Hilaire du Berrier - Activities.

Made by. D. S. I. Logan. Forwarded by. D. I. Crawford

Information has been received to the effect that Hilaire du Berrier, U.S.A. citizen of French descent, is co-habiting with a Mrs. Oliaga who was formerly Mrs. Burkhardt, residing in Pent House Flat B., Glen Line Building, whose husband committed suicide.

du Berrier's present address is Apt. 1, 112 Ferry Road (Tel. No. 37001). It is said that he is endeavouring to establish a male brothel somewhere on Avenue Joffre, to which rich women will be recommended by Dr. von Kiorini (Austrian) and Mrs. Ruby Edwards and that when the time is ripe, du Berrier will attempt to blackmail such women as will appear to be easy victims. du Berrier is stated to be without funds at present and to be subsisting on money provided by Mrs. Oliaga.

On July 22, 1940, together with R.L. Hermann, U.S.A. citizen (ex-convict) and one Lather, who claims to be an air pilot, believed to be a U.S.A. citizen, du Berrier called on Mr. Hugh Middleton, 45 Kiukiang Road, and offered his services to the British Forces. Needless to say, none of the three men ~~were~~ accepted.

Information has also been received to the effect that recently du Berrier attempted to steal some documents from the room in the Park Hotel,

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SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

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..... Station,  
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Made by. ....

Forwarded by. ....

| occupied by Capt. Stennes (German) but was caught  
in the act by the latter. The matter was kept quiet  
by Capt. Stennes but it is said that du Berrier  
is afraid that he may yet suffer in some way for  
his temerity.

C. S. I.

*W. L. G. A.*

D. S. I.

D. C. (Special Branch).

INDEXED BY  
(S.B.) REGISTRY

DATE 29/7/40

off